

United Water Idaho
8248 W. Victory Road
Boise, ID 83709
www.unitedwater.com/idaho

Customer Service
208-362-7304

In keeping with our commitment to the environment,
this publication was printed on recycled paper.

©2011 United Water

unitedwater.com/idaho

060110111



THE BIG CHILL CHECKLIST

How to Prevent Frozen Pipes





CHECK YOUR PIPES

Are you ready for the big chill? Winters can be harsh on household plumbing and rough on your wallet should damage occur. Now is the time to protect your pipes from the freezing weather. Follow these tips to help reduce your risk of costly repairs.

Homeowners are responsible for their service lines from the back of the meter box to their home's foundation.

Start Outside

Begin outdoors by disconnecting and draining the garden hose connection. Next, close all outside vents, crawl spaces and doors so cold air doesn't seep inside. Fix broken windows and seal cracks in the walls.

Insulate, Insulate, Insulate

It's a good idea to wrap exposed water lines in commercial insulation. Pipes subject to cold or freezing should be wrapped in UL-listed heat tape which is available at hardware stores.

Locate the Shutoff Valves

Place a tag on the main shutoff valve and make sure everyone in the house knows its location and how to operate it during an emergency.

Check the Heat

If you're going away for an extended period of time, keep a minimum amount of heat on in the house. This will help protect the pipes in case the temperature drops. If you plan to turn the heat off, drain all the water from the pipes, toilets and water heater, and turn off the power source to the water heater.

Winterize Your Sprinklers

You can winterize your sprinkler system yourself, but it's recommended that you have a professional do the work to prevent damaging your irrigation system.

If you haven't had your sprinklers winterized yet, contact a certified technician to see if the weather conditions allow your sprinklers to be blown out.

Many sprinkler installers, landscapers and private contractors offer this service.



THAWING FROZEN PIPES

Act Quickly

If your pipes freeze, it's important to clear blockages as soon as possible to minimize damage. In some instances, it may be best to call a licensed plumber.

Turn Off the Water

If a water pipe has frozen and burst, turn off the water at the main shutoff valve in the house. Open a nearby faucet slightly so the pipe can drain as it thaws.

Be Careful

Do not use electrical appliances in areas of standing water. Never use hot water or a blowtorch on a frozen pipe.